

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00  
XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00  
/098 W

-----070532Z 092725 /20

R 061339Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4323

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 03533

E.O. 11652: N/A  
AGS: EAGR EPAP ET  
SUBJET: CEREAL ARRIVALS IN ADDIS ABABA DECLINING

REF: ADDIS ABABA 104

1. SUMMARY. ARRIVALS OF CEREAL IN ADDIS ABABA HAVE DECLINED DURING THE PASS FEW WEEKS THE DIVERSION OF TRANSPROT FROM MOVEMENT OF CEREALS TO MOVEMENT OF PEASANT MILITIA AND IMPORTED MILITARY SUPPLIES HAS OCCURRED. WHILE SITUATION IS STILL NOT SERIOUS, UNLESS TRANSPORT OF CEREALS IS GIVEN HIGHER PRIORITY IN RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE, CEREALS AVAILABILITY IN ADDIS ABABA COULD REACH PRECARIOUSLY LOW LEVELS. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO GRAIN BOARD SOURCES, FROM SEPTEMBER 1976 TO MARCH 1977, ROUGHLY 147,000 TONS OF CEREAL HAD ARRIVED IN THE ADDIS ABABA MARKETS. FOR THE ENTIRE 1975/1976 CEREAL YEAR (SEPTEMBER 1975- AUGUST 1976), APPROXIMATELY 157,000 TONS OF CEREAL CAM TO ADDIS. STARTING IN APRIL, HOWEVER, ARRIVALS BEGAN TO DECLINE AS MORE AND MORE TRUCKS HAVE BEEN DI-  
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VERTED TO TRANSPORT OF PEASANT MILITIA PERSONNEL AND IMPORTED MILITARY SUPPLIES FROM ASSABTO ADDIS. DURING THE PAST TWO OR THRE WEEK, THIS DIVERSION HS SERIOUSLY CUT INTO CERIALS ARRIVALS TO THE POINT WHERE THEY ARE ROUGHLY HALF NORMAL CONSUMPTION REQUIREMENT (APPROXIMATELY 400 MT PER DAY). THIS HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN SHARPLY INCREASING PRICES FOR

CEREALS IN THE ADDIS MARKET. BECAUSE OF THE VERY SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF CEREALS AVAILABLE EARLIER THIS SEASON, IT SEEMS HIGHLY PROBABLE THAT SUBSTANTIAL INENTORIES ARE CURRENTLY IN THE HANDS OF GRAIN/ MERCHANTS, INDIVIDUAL ONSUMERS AND PRESUMABLY THE AGRICULTURAL MARKETIG CORPORATION (WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO OBTIN STAOC FIGURES FROM THAT ORGANIZATION IN CON- NECTION WIT THE EPMG'S REQUEST FOR PL480 TITLE 1 WHEAT PURCHASE). NVERTHELESS, STEPS MUST BE TAKEN IN TE NEAR FUTUR TO RELEASEORE TRANSPORTATION FO MOVEMENT OF CEREALS ID A SRIOUSSUPPLY PICH ISTO BE AVOIDED. THIS HAS BEEN MADE ALL THE ORE DIFFICULT BY RECENT DISRPTION OF ADDIS-JIBOUTI RAILROAD (SEE SEPELS).

3. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE CURRENT DECLINE IN MARKTING APPEARS TO E RELATED SOLELY TO A SHORTAGE OF TRANSPORTATION AND DOES NOT IMPLY SHORTFALL IN CEREALS PRODUCTION (EXCEPT FOR WHEAT.) ON THE CONTRARY, INFORMED OBSERVERS AGREE THAT SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITTITES OF CEREALS ARE STILL AVAILABLE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AND THAT FARMS ARE PREPARED TO SELL OWING TO THE VERY HIGHT PRICES THEY RECEIVE FOR THESE PRODUCTS (SEE REFTEL). TIENKEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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